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Washington



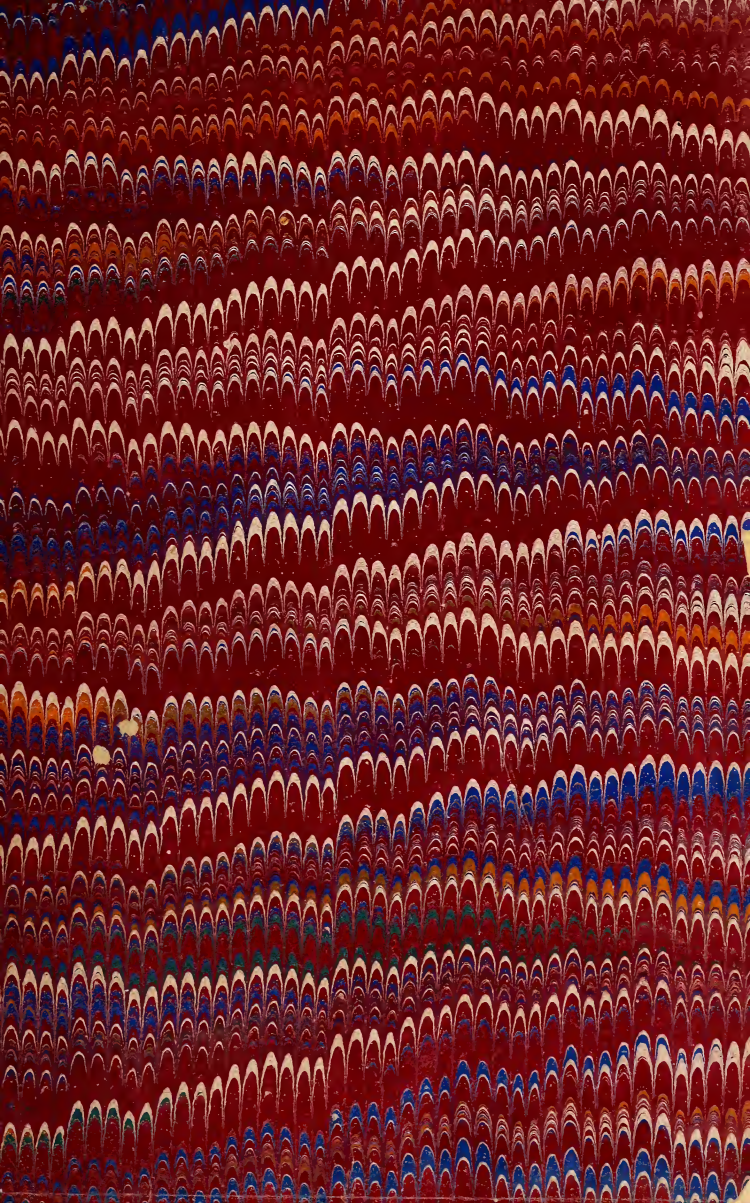
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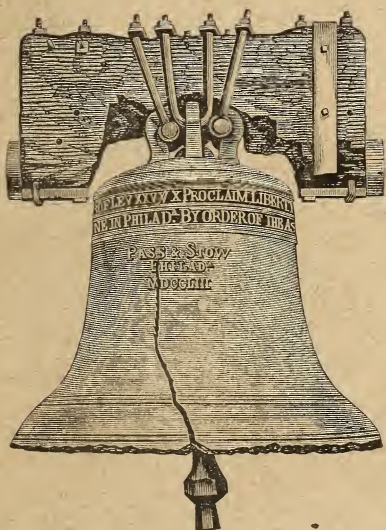
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R

SOLDIER AND SAGE.

MEMORIALS

OF

George Washington

AND

Benjamin Franklin.

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De Costa 1876

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Philadelphia:
McCalla & Staveland.

1876



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The following letters were copied by me from the originals in the British Museum, and are now reproduced as Centennial Memorials. They are given exactly as written, and are offered as a humble contribution to the Literature of the subject.

B. F. DECOSTA.

Grammercy Park,

New York, June 17th, 1876.



CENTENNIAL MEMORIALS.

The following letters would command attention at any time, but they are of especial interest in connection with the Centennial. For this reason they are printed in the present form.

The letter of Washington is one of those many documents that he was obliged to frame in connection with propositions for negotiations preliminary to peace. This letter is brief, but it is marked by the writer's usual wisdom, firmness and humanity. A glance at his correspondence covering this period will reveal the fact that the peace propositions brought him under serious embarrassment, as the soldiers could scarcely be made to comprehend the difference between peace and the preliminaries of peace, and were ready to throw down their arms and return to their homes. It was, therefore, only by

the means of his well-known tact that order was preserved in the army, and moderation maintained amongst the savages in the service of Great Britain.

The letters of Franklin will not change our estimate of his character. In 1764 he was a devoted servant of the Crown, and so he would always have remained, if the Crown had remained worthy of his devotion. These letters were written a little while before he sailed on a visit to the mother country as the agent of Pennsylvania, near the time when he wrote to his daughter, saying, "Go constantly to Church, whoever preaches. The act of devotion in the Common Prayer Book is your principal business there, and, if properly attended to, will do more toward amending your heart than sermons can generally do." This remark indicates what must have been Franklin's general opinion respecting the works of Voltaire, from whose "*Traité sur La Tolerance*" he quotes, a work that sprang from the

moving text furnished by what may be regarded as the official murder of Jean Calas. If, however, the witty Frenchman could have looked into Philadelphia at the time he was writing, he would have given a different picture of affairs. Those were the days of the Paxton Rioters, and the days that cost Franklin so much of his popularity, and brought such bitter enemies, as the benevolent Philosopher interposed himself between the captive Indians and the furious white men, who would have made the streets of Philadelphia flow with blood. These letters, however, explain themselves, and extended comment is not necessary. Franklin copied his French indifferently, but under the circumstances no corrections will be expected.

B. F. DECOSTA.

WASHINGTON TO THE INDIAN
COMMANDER.

[Haldimand MSS., British Museum, vol. 21,763
fol. 42.]

Headquarters Newburgh, 14th April
1783.—

Sir—

I have the honor to inform you that on the 3rd of April I received from Sir Guy Careleton the enclosed extract of a Letter from General Haldimand,—No. 1.— On the 8th a proclamation from the King of Great Brittain was sent me by Sir Guy— No. 2— And on the 10th a Letter of which No. 3 is a copy, was received requesting Passports for two Gentlemen bearing Despatches from the British Commander in Chief to General Haldimand, announcing the ratification of the preliminary Articles of a general Peace, & a cessation of Hostilities.—A Passport was immediately granted—and the gentlemen are on their way to Canada.—

The distance to General Haldimand be-

ing great, & his situation so wide from your Part that great Time must elapse before you can receive his despatches;—I have taken the Liberty to make this communication to you by the directest route in my power—in confident hope, that, altho you may not deem the Information *official*, yet that your Benevolence will cause it to be regarded with such attention, that, if it does not produce a cessation of Hostilities within your command—yet, it may at least prevent unnecessary & wanton Acts of Cruelty, which may have been meditated by the Indians on the Frontiers;—and which in their Consequences, may prove as disagreeable to them as distressing to the Inhabitants of the United States.—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obed. Servant

G: WASHINGTON.

FRANKLIN TO BOUQUET.

[Haldimand MSS., British Museum, vol. 21,650, fol. 201.]

PHILAD Augt. 16, 1764.

Dear Sir

Returning just now from the Board of Commissioners, I found your agreeable Favour of the 10th Instant.—We had a Meeting on Tuesday, when your Letter to the Governor was laid before us, his Honor not present, and the board thin.—I think none but myself spoke then for the measure recommended ; so, to prevent its being harshly refused, I moved to refer it to this Day, when we might have a fuller Board. The Principal Objection was, that the Act did not empower us to go further.—To day we got over that Objection and all others, and came to a Resolution which will be communicated to you, by the Governor I suppose, and the Money sent by Capt Young. We have fully, as we understand it, comply'd with your Requisition.—And 'tis a pleasure to me to have done anything you wish'd me to do in the Affair, before the Receipt of your letter.

I recollect that I once in Conversation promised you some Papers I had by me,

containing Hints for conducting an Indian War. I have since found them, and on looking them over, am of Opinion you will meet with nothing new in them that is of any importance; however, to keep my Promise, I now send them inclos'd.

The June Packet is arrived from England, as is also our Friend, Mr. Allen; but we have no News by them that is material.—France and England are both diligently repairing their Marine; but I suppose 'tis a matter of course, and not with any Intention of any new Rupture. The Ministerial Party is said to be continually gaining Strength, and the Opposition diminishing. Abroad the Poles are cutting one anothers throats a little, about their Election.—But 'tis their Constitution, and I suppose reckoned among their Privileges to sacrifice a few Thousand of the subjects every Interregnum, either to the Manes of the deceas'd King or in honour of his successor. And if they are fond of this Privilege, I don't know that their Neighbors have any right to disturb them in the enjoyment of it:—And yet the Russians have entered their Country with an Army, to preserve Peace! *and secure the Freedom of the Election!*

It comes into my Mind that you may

easily do me a kindness ; and I ought not, by omitting to acquaint you with the occasion, deprive you of the Pleasure you take in serving your Friends. By this ship I hear that my Enemies (for God has bless'd me with two or three, to keep me in order) are now representing me at home, as an Opposer & Obstructor of his Majesty's Service here. If I know anything of my own Heart, or can remember anything of my own actions, I think that they might as justly accuse me of being a Blackamore. — You cannot but have heard of the Zeal and Industry with which I promoted the Service in the time of General Braddock, and the Douceur I procured for the Officers that serv'd under him. I spent a Summer in that Service without a Shilling Advantage to myself in the shape of Profit, Commission, or any other way whatsoever. I projected a Method of supplying Gen. Shirley with £10,000 worth of Provisions, to be given at his request by this Province, and carried the same thro' the House so as to render it effectual ; together with a gift of some hundreds of warm wastecoats, Stockings, Mittens &c. for the Troops in their first winter Service at Albany. And at Lord Loudon's Request I so manag'd

between the Governor & Assembly as to procure the Passage of the £60,000 Act then greatly wanted, and which met with great Difficulty.—On your Arrival here, you know the Kindness with which I endeavored to serve the Officers in the Affair of their Quarters. And you have been a Witness of my Behaviour as a Commissioner, in the Execution of the present Act, and of my Forwardness to carry at the Board every Measure you propos'd to promote the service.—What I would request is, that you would take Occasion in Some Letter to me to express your Sentiments of my Conduct in these Respects, so far as has come to your knowledge, or fallen under your Observation. My having such a letter to produce on occasion, may possibly be of considerable service to me.—With the most perfect Esteem

I am

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient,
Humble Servant

Col. Bouquet.

B. FRANKLIN.

Mrs. Franklin & Sally join
me in Prayers for your success and happy Return.

I send you inclos'd our last
political Pamphlet, to amuse
you on some rainy day.

FRANKLIN TO BOUQUET.

[Haldimand MSS., British Museum, vol. 21,650,
fol. 536.]

Philada : Sept. 30, 1764.

Dear Sir,

I have been so totally occupied with the sitting of the Assembly and other urgent Affairs that I could not till now do myself the Pleasure of writing to you since the Receipt of your obliging Favours of Aug. 10 & 22, and a subsequent one relating to Broadstreet's Peace, of which I think as you do.

I thank you cordially for so readily complying with my Request. Your letter was quite full & sufficient and leaves me nothing to desire by way of Addition, except that if any letters of yours relating to the present Expedition is like to be seen by the Secretary of State, you would take occasion just to mention me as one ready on that & every other Occasion to promote the Service of the Crown. The Malice and Industry of my Adversaries, have, I find, made these Precautions a little necessary.

Your sentiments of our Constitution are solid & just.—I am not sure that the Change now attempted will immediately take place, nor am I very anxious about it. But sooner or later it will be effected. And till it is effected, we shall have little internal Quiet in the Administration of our Publick affairs.

I have lately receiv'd a Number of new Pamphlets from England & France, among which is a Peice of Voltaire's on the Subject of Religious Toleration. I will give a Passage of it, which being read here at a Time when we are torn to Peices by Faction religious and civil, shows us that while we sit for our Picture to that Able Painter, 'tis no small Advantage to us that he views us at a favourable distance.

“ Mais que dirons-nous, dit il, de ces pacifiques *Primitifs* que l'on a nommés *Quakers* par dérision, & qui avec des usages peut-être ridicules, ont ete si vertueux, & ont enseigné inutilement la paix aux restes des les hommes. Ils sont en Pensilvanie au nombre de cent mille ; la Discorde, la controversse sont ignores dans Cheureuse patrie qui ils se sont faite : & le nom seul de leur ville de *Philadelphie*,

qui leur rapelle a tout moment que les hommes sont freres, est l' exemple & la honte des peuples qui ne connaissent pas encore la tolerance." (1)

The occasion of his Writing this *Traite sur la Tolerance* was what he calls *Le Mourtire de Jean Calas dans Toulouse avec le glaive de la justice*, le 9me Mars 1762 ! There is in it abundance of good Sense & sound Reasoning, mix'd with some of those Pleasantries that mark the Author as strongly as if he had affixed his name. Take one of them as a sample : "J'ai aprens que le Parlement de Toulouse & quelques autres tribunaux, ont une jurisprudence singulaire ; ils admettent des quarts, des tiers siximes de preuve. Ainsi, avec six ouindire d'un côte, trois de l'autre & quatre quarti de presomtion ils forment trois preuves complètes ; & sur cette belle demonstration ils vous rouent unbonne sans misrecorde. Une legère connoissance de l'art de raisonner suffrait pour leur faire prendre une autre methode, ce qu'on apelle une demi preuve ne peut etre qu'on soupson : Il n'y a point a 'la riguer' de demi preuve ou une chose est prouvée, ou elle ne l'est pas ; il n'y a point de milien. Cent mille soupson

reunis ne peuvent pas plus etablir une preuve, que cent mille zeros ne peuvent composer un nombre. Il y a des quarts de ton dan la musique, encore ne les peut on executes ; mais il n'y a n'y quort de verite, ni quart de raisonnement." (2)

I send you one of the Pamphlet, *Judgement rendute dans l'affairs de Canady* supposing it may be the more agreeable to you to see it, as during your war with that Colony you must have been made acquainted with some of the Character concerned.

With the truest esteem and affection I am

Dear Sir.

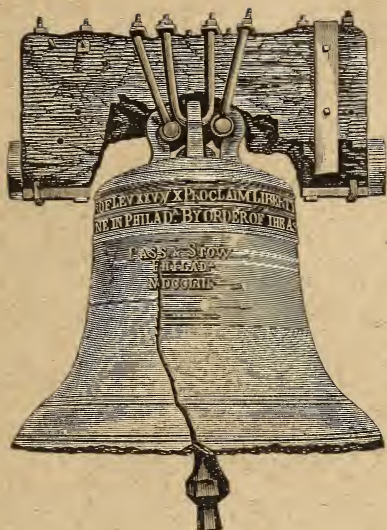
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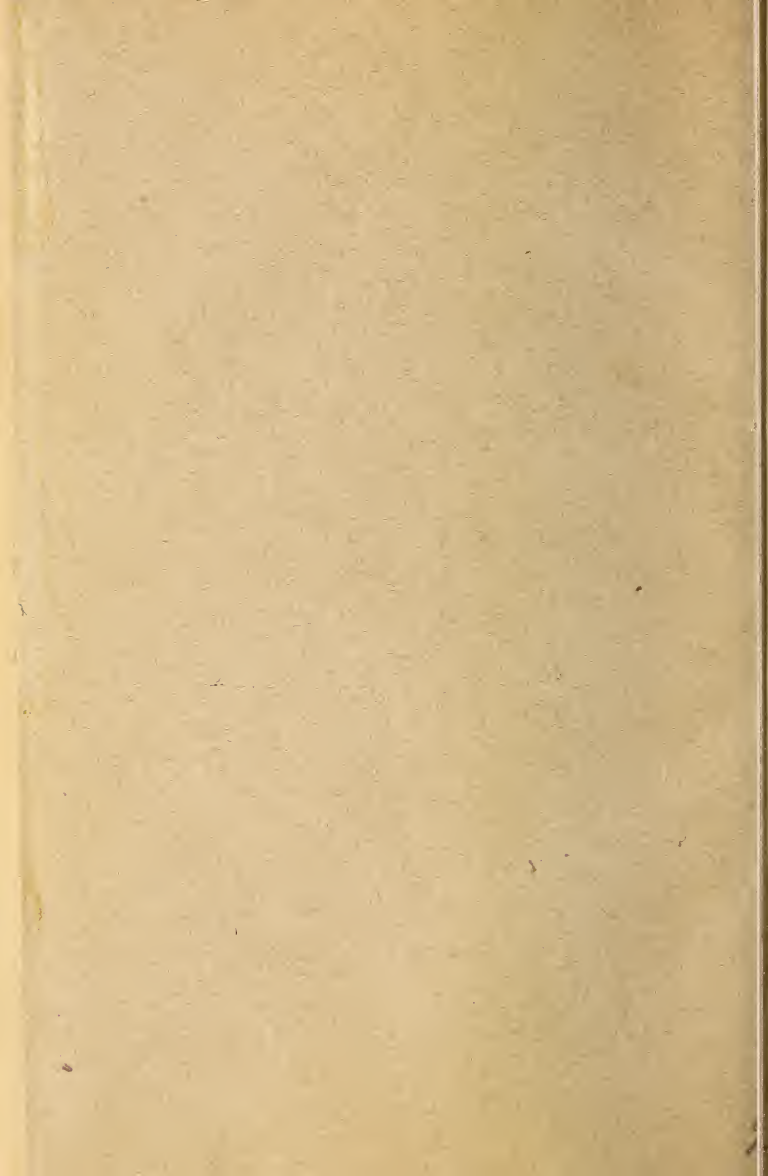
B. FRANKLIN.

(1) "What do we hear of the Primitives, in derision called *Quakers*, and who with customs perhaps ridiculous, have been so virtuous have so unsuccessfully taught peace to the rest of men? They exist in Pennsylvania to the number of a hundred thousand; discord and controversy are ignored in the happy country that they form; and the name of their city of Philadelphia alone, which reminds us that all men are brothers, is the example and the shame of those people who have not yet learned toleration." From the edition of Voltaire's Complete Works, Paris 1827. Vol. 38. p. 161.

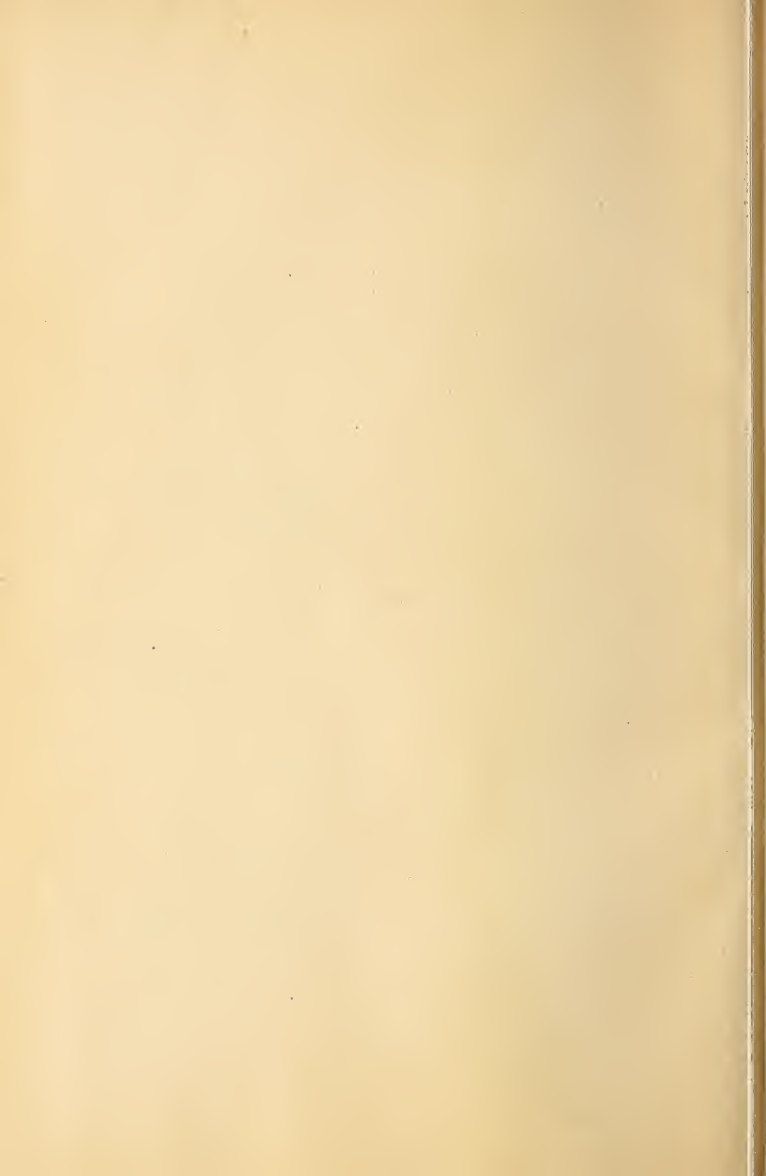
(2) I apprehend that the Parliament of Toulouse and some other tribunals, have a jurisprudence that

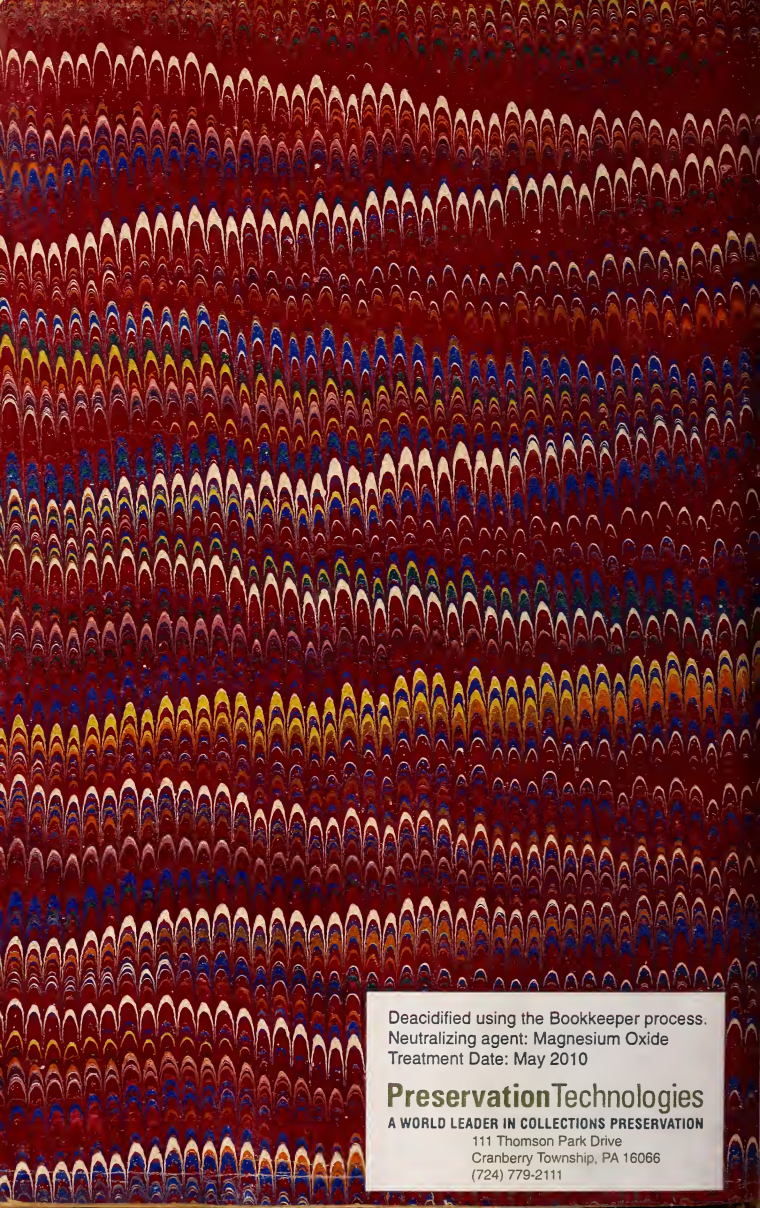
is peculiar. They admit of fourths, of thirds and sixths of proof. Thus, with six hearsays on the one side and three on the other, and four fourths of presumption, they form three complete proofs. And upon this beautiful demonstration they put a man on the rack without mercy. A slight knowledge of the art of reasoning would enable them to take another method, that which one calls a half proof which is only a suspicion. It has not the rigor of a half proof where a thing is proved or it is not; it has no medium. A hundred thousand suspicions together are not able to establish a proof, than a hundred thousand zeros would be able to form a number. There are fourths in music, though one is not able to execute them, but there are no fourths of truths and no fourths of reason."









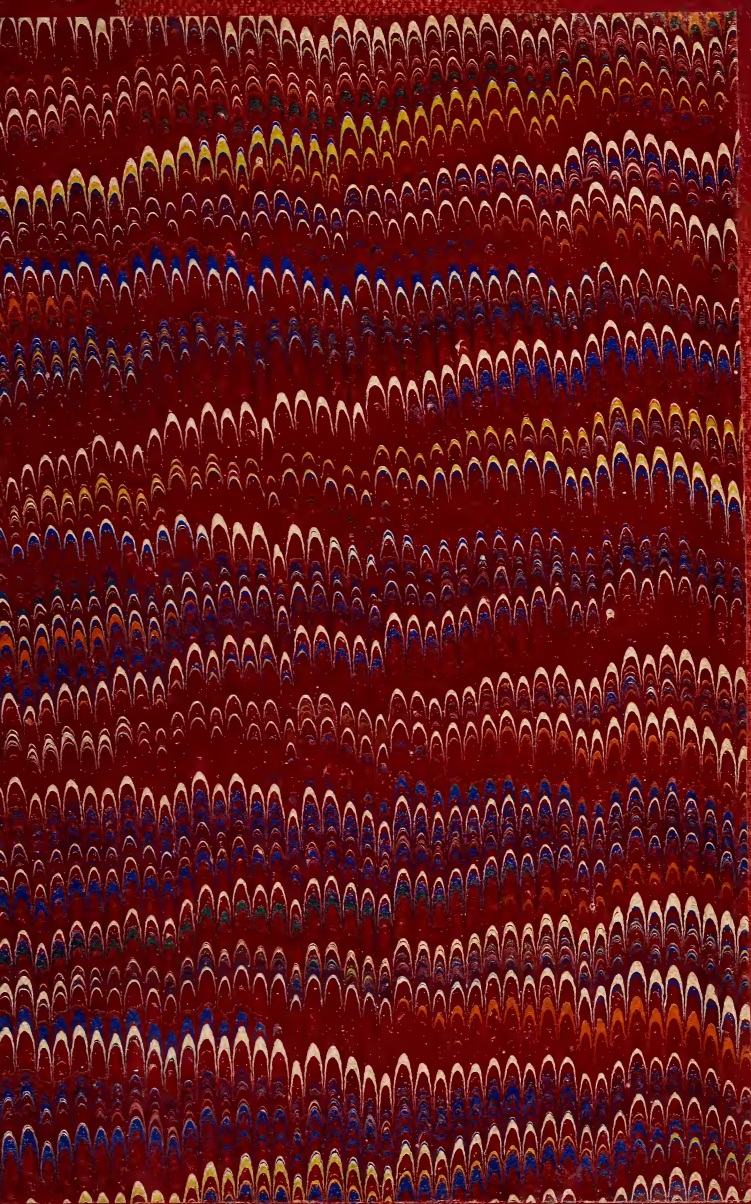


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